

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-04 SR-02 ORM-03 SS-20 L-03 VO-03

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R 302210Z APR 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF, RO

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR ASYLUM (ARIANA VASILESCU)

1. FOLLOWING ACCOUNT SUPPLIED FOR EMBASSY BACKGROUND IF
GOR RAISES THIS CASE.

2. ARIANA VASILESCU, MEMBER OF CIPRIAN PORUMBESCU CHOIR,
CONTACTED POLICE IN NEW BRUNSWICK, N.J. ON APRIL 25 WITH
REQUEST FOR POLITICAL ASYLUM. DURING COURSE OF APRIL 25
VASILESCU SPOKE BY TELEPHONE WITH PARENT AND FIANCE IN
BUCHAREST AND CHANGED HER MIND ABOUT STAYING IN THE U.S.
SHE ALSO SPOKE WITH ROMANIAN EMBASSY, INDICATING THAT SHE
WISHED TO REJOIN CHOIR AND RETURN TO ROMANIA. EMBASSY
SENT FODOR OF ROMANIAN NEW YORK COMMERCIAL OFFICE TO TAKE
HER TO NEW YORK. BY THIS TIME INS HAD BEEN INFORMED OF
EARLIER ASYLUM REQUEST AND HAD TAKEN CUSTODY OF
VASILESCU. DEPARTMENT ADVISED INS THAT CONTACT WITH
ROMANIAN OFFICIALS SHOULD NOT BE PERMITTED AT THAT TIME
AND THAT THEY SHOULD BE ADVISED TO SEEK CONTACT THROUGH
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STATE DEPARTMENT CHANNELS. VASILESCU REMAINED IN INS

CUSTODY NIGHT OF APRIL 25 AND WAS TAKEN TO NEWARK INS OFFICE ON APRIL 26 FOR INTERVIEW TO DETERMINE HER WISH TO REMAIN IN U.S. OR RETURN TO ROMANIA.

3. INS INTERVIEWED VASILESCU MORNING OF APRIL 26 AND DETERMINED THAT SHE WISHED TO REJOIN CHOIR AND RETURN

TO ROMANIA. ROMANIAN-SPEAKING DEPARTMENT OFFICER WENT TO NEWARK AFTERNOON OF APRIL 26 AND INTERVIEWED VASILESCU TO CONFIRM HER INTENTION TO RETURN TO ROMANIA.

4. MITRAN OF ROMANIAN EMBASSY CALLED AT DEPARTMENT ON MORNING OF APRIL 26 TO REQUEST CONTACT IN PERSON OR BY TELEPHONE WITH VASILESCU. HE WAS INFORMED THAT CONTACT WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE UNTIL INS HAD COMPLETED ITS INTERVIEW. MITRAN OBJECTED TO REFUSAL TO PERMIT CONTACT SOONER, BUT MADE ARRANGEMENTS TO TRAVEL TO NEWARK TO SEE VASILESCU AT 4:00 P.M. DURING MEETING WITH MITRAN, INS AND DEPARTMENT OFFICER, VASILESCU AGAIN CONFIRMED THAT SHE WISHED TO RETURN TO CHOIR. MITRAN LEFT WITH VASILESCU STATING THAT HE WOULD RETURN HER TO CHOIR ON APRIL 27. DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN INFORMED THAT SHE HAS REJOINED CHOIR.

5. DURING CALL BY COUNSELOR IONITA AND CONSUL EDU APRIL 29 ON DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY ARMITAGE ON ANOTHER MATTER, ROMANIANS RAISED ISSUE OF LACK OF TIMELY ACCESS TO VASILESCU. THEY WERE TOLD ABOUT U.S. PROCEDURES IN HANDLING CASES WHEN PERSONS RECONSIDER ORIGINAL REQUEST FOR ASYLUM. RUSH

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